

The Fire Mark

The Newsletter of the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum
PORT HOPE, ONTARIO, CANADA • DECEMBER 2012

What's Happening at CFFM?

We continue to move forward to achieve our goal of becoming "Canada's National Fire Fighters Museum". In September, we official announced our fundraising campaign. Over the next two years, we're set to raise \$2,500,000 to facilitate the move to a larger, more comprehensive, climate controlled facility in the Port Hope area. As most of our members already realize, the present facility on Mill Street South, in Port Hope, which has served us well for over 28 years, is simply too small and lacks the climate control we need to adequately protect our heritage items and allow us to be open year-round.

We have appointed fund raising professionals who have been hard at work on grants and fund raising activities in the area. And our fund raising consultants have put together a team of local business people to help with this big job.

So far, the results are very encouraging and we have been able to win grant monies from several organizations and business as well as generous donations from individuals and businesses. It seems when you represent Canada's fire fighting heritage and the heroic efforts of our firefighters, people are very willing to dig deep!

We'll keep you posted on our fundraising progress!



Above: Part of our fundraising team at the campaign kickoff at the museum in September. From left to right: Kevin Strong, Port Hope Fire Fighter; Peter Dounoukos, *Northumberland Today*; Bud Lauria, Lauria Hyundai; Paul Racine, Fundraising Chair; Aaron Blair, Cobourg Fire Fighter; and Bill Patchett, Master Fundraiser!

Have you "liked us" on Facebook?

Our Facebook page is the place where we are continually posting photos and information on the things that are happening at the museum and we are very pleased with the number of visitors and "likes" we're getting from people from all over the world!

If you haven't already visited our Facebook page, it's not hard to find, just go to: www.facebook.com/Fire-MuseumCanada and you're there!

You'll see lots of photos taken at various events this past year and get information on new events as they are scheduled. It's a great way to keep up with what's happening at CFFM.

Marielle Lambert is our Volunteer of the Year!

At our Annual General meeting held September 25th at the historic Wesleyville Church, Board Chair, Ken Burgin made a surprise announcement: he was inaugurating an annual award to be known as "The Chair's Award" for the volunteer he had selected as the most outstanding volunteer of the past year. This was open to all volunteers but excluding staff and board members.

This year's award, an engraved plaque, went to Marielle Lambert who's interior design flair and hard work resulted in a greatly improved museum store/reception area as *more...*

well as revised and improved displays throughout the museum.

Said Mr. Burgin, on presenting the award, "We are deeply indebted to Marielle for the time and effort she has contributed to our museum 'cleanup' project. She went far beyond what she initially signed on for and the results are outstanding!"

New Addition to the CFFM Artifact Collection:

We continue to acquire important and interesting artifacts that fit our criteria of fire fighting related equipment and paraphernalia made or used in Canada.

Even though space is limited and we are facing a move in the foreseeable future, curator, John Downs often is presented with acquisition opportunities he cannot refuse! In fact, the board has recently asked that any new acquisition be carefully considered on the basis of whether or not it will make a significant addition to our collection and thus must be acquired in spite of the coming move.

This was recently the case when we were offered an immaculately restored ladder truck of the late forties. Although we have one that's similar, it is in need of restoration at a possible cost of \$80,000. The truck we are offered is restored and it is FREE! In a case like this, the obvious solution is to get the restored truck and "de-accession" the other one. But there's more to consider here: this restored truck will require secure storage for at least a year—and it's 53 feet long!

At present, we just do not have the space at the museum so we are searching for storage at another location. Make no mistake, we want this truck, but only if we can adequately protect it.

Thanks to Our Many Sponsors

As we progress with our fund raising campaign, we've been greatly encouraged by the generosity of the individuals, businesses and organizations that are helping us achieve our goal. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to our major sponsors: Cameco Corporation, Fire Fighters Credit Union, Walmart, McDonalds, Toronto Professional Firefighters Local 3888, Oshawa Professional Fire Fighters Local 465, the Municipality of Port Hope and many others too numerous to mention.

Without the support of our sponsors and contributors we could not keep CFFM open.

Adopt-a-Hydrant Update!



In our previous newsletter we announced our Adopt-a-Hydrant Program. We're pleased to say this has really caught on! We are presently refurbishing four more vintage Canadian hydrants that will be displayed looking shiny and new with brass plaques bearing the name of the person adopting or a pet.

You can adopt one of our many vintage fire hydrants and have your name or the name of a pet added? You can choose the hydrant from our large selection of "as found" hydrants, and for your contribution of \$100 (plus HST), we will have the hydrant blasted, repainted in appropriate colours and your brass plaque applied. Adoption forms are available at the Museum reception, or call us for one and we'll send it to you.

Welcome New Board Members!

At our Annual General Meeting in September, we were pleased to accept the nominations of three new CFFM Board Members: Bob Wallace, who will Chair our Volunteer Committee; Paul Racine, who is our Fundraising Committee Chair; and Norm Richards, who is the Chair of our Site Selection Committee.

These gentlemen bring a wealth of experience and talent to the CFFM Board and join present Directors: Mary Trevor, Treasurer; Will Lambert, Vice Chair; Isabel Frazer, Secretary; Blake Holton, Membership Chair; Dan Lovshin, Vehicle Maintenance Committee; Kelly Morgan-MacKenzie, Municipal Liaison; and Ken Burgin, Board Chair.

We Still Need Volunteers!

There's lots to do at CFFM, so bring us your talent — we need helpers for fundraising events; Museum docents; Museum maintenance; help with displays, computers, machinery (yes, fire trucks) and much, much more. Can you help us? Please call us at: 905-885-8985 and sign on.

The Fire Mark is the Newsletter of the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum, 95 Mill Street S., Port Hope ON L1A 3W4 Tel: 905-885-8985

www.FireMuseumCanada.com

www.facebook.com/FireMuseumCanada

